

WAR IN THE ORIENT.

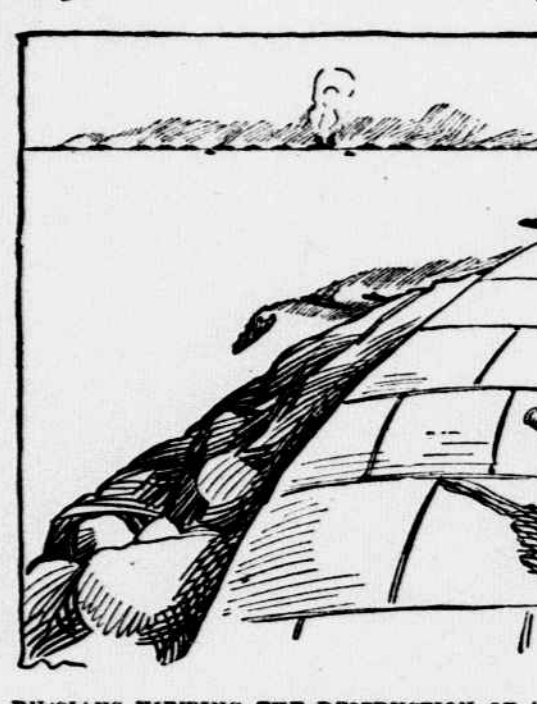
A Number of Minor Affairs, of Much Noise and but Little Loss of Life—Russians Preparing to Abandon the Peninsula—Heavy Losses to the Japanese Navy.

THE SITUATION.

Disposition of the Forces at the Beginning of the Week, and Probabilities as to Operations.

At the beginning of the week Gen. Kuroki was still at Feng-Wang-Cheng, apparently gathering his forces together, bringing up supplies from the rear, getting in shape for a further advance. The expectation last week that he would immediately push forward through the mountains for Hai-cheng was not realized. Apparently he saw too many chances for a successful attack upon the heads of his isolated columns to proceed with great circumspection, and at the first show of trouble by the Russians, he prudently drew back to get his forces together and the situation well in hand. Probably he is also waiting for the effect upon the Russians of the other columns, which have been landed on the coast, and are advancing to threaten the right flank of the Russians and may confront them. Gen. Oku, commanding the Third Japanese Corps, has landed a division at the Elliott Islands, near Pitsewo, and is probably landing other divisions at other convenient points to advance and support Gen. Kuroki's left flank.

Whether Gen. Oku will advance to strike the Russians fronting Gen. Kuroki, or whether he will turn back and invest Port Arthur remains to be seen. He is threatening at present to do both of these things.



Russians Viewing the Destruction of a Japanese War Ship, from the Port at the Entrance to Port Arthur.

As near as can be known, the Japanese have now 150,000 troops in the southern part of the Liao-tung Peninsula, and probably the Russians have not more than half that number. The effectiveness of these is further diminished by their being scattered in order to guard so many different points. It is believed now that the Russians have only 1,000 men in Port Arthur, with somewhere from 5,000 to 7,000 sailors from the fleet. These will man the forts very effectively.

It is a question of great interest whether the Japanese will at once proceed to the reduction of Port Arthur by siege and assault, or whether they will let it fall through starvation. In the latter case, the Russian talk about the place being fully supplied for a year, it is now definitely known that a scarcity of food is being felt, and that supplies are being obtained by junks which avoid the Japanese fleet and gain entrance either directly to the port or to some of the landings on the peninsula near the city.

The disasters to their ships and the approach of the rainy season may decide the Japanese to push operations, and force the surrender of the place. This would be costly, because it is known from experience at Sebastopol that the Russian soldier, standing on the defensive inside intrenchments, is a hardy antagonist.

It is believed by competent military critics that Gen. Kuropatkin is in grave danger of being surrounded and forced to surrender a greater part of his army. This is a matter of military chess playing, and will be decided by the superior abilities of the Generals who are playing the game. The way the Japanese have been handled so far leads to a strong probability that Kuropatkin, if he carries too long in front of Gen. Kuroki at Feng-Wang-Cheng, or in front of New-Chang, may find his avenues of retreat cut off, which would not be a difficult thing in that mountainous country, and have no alternative but to surrender.

Already comes stories of the great suffering of the Russian troops from disease and lack of supplies. The Russian is undoubtedly the dirtiest of European soldiers, and it is almost impossible to maintain him in a sanitary camp. The indications are very strong that the Russians are preparing to adopt the plan foreseen in the National Tribune in the first article written upon the strategy of the impending war—that is they will abandon the whole of the Liao-tung Peninsula, which was at the mercy of the overwhelming troops of the Japanese as soon as the fleet at Port Arthur was neutralized, and retire to the line of the Sungari, with headquarters at Harbin. The latest news points to their abandonment of the peninsula, and the evacuation of the Sungari, and establishing outposts at Tsin-ling and Ken-yang, with a sub-base at Chuan-ching, which would not be a difficult thing in that mountainous country, and have no alternative but to surrender.

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It is further evident that no such monopoly of traffic is possible under the circumstances, the army being dependent upon it. Thus the transportation of even a single train of supplies from the rear presents difficulties next to insurmountable. It probably will happen that a certain number of battalions and batteries will be dispatched with a great flourish of trumpets, together with a large number of the losses, and these will be magnified into a complete army corps and figure as such on the Russian lists. It may be recalled that the dispatch of the residue of the Tenth and Seventeenth Army Corps, each of which has an infantry brigade already at the front, was promised for April 15, and is already a month overdue. The arrival at Khabarovsk of the residue of these two army corps could not be secured before the end of September. Let us therefore hope they will carry Winter clothing. Meanwhile the Fourth Siberian Army Corps is struggling all over the line of communication and no one can say when the railway will be clear. The blockade of these heavy liabilities certainly has been very great, and a vivid light is thus thrown upon the situation.

Severe Loss in Ships.
The Japanese have lost three war-ships in battleship and two cruisers—by the explosion of mines, with an appalling loss of life among the crews. The details are meager and conflicting, but it would seem that the battleship—*Hatsuse*—struck a mine some 10 miles or more from Port Arthur, which would indicate that the mines planted for the defense of the harbor had drifted out by the force of the strong tides which prevail there. It has been anticipated, and is the source of alarm, not merely to the Japanese navy, but to the merchantmen doing business in those waters. It is so much important that the matter is being put in shape for presentation to the Hague Tribunal, to make regulations regarding the planting of mines.

The other two Japanese ships appear to have struck the mines regularly planted outside the harbor. There is another report that the battleship—*Hatsuse*—struck a mine some 10 miles or more from Port Arthur, which would indicate that the mines planted for the defense of the harbor had drifted out by the force of the strong tides which prevail there. It has been anticipated, and is the source of alarm, not merely to the Japanese navy, but to the merchantmen doing business in those waters. It is so much important that the matter is being put in shape for presentation to the Hague Tribunal, to make regulations regarding the planting of mines.

The troubles of the Japanese must greatly increase as the advance beyond Mukden. They will then be about 400 miles from Port Arthur, and they must keep close to the railroad in order to get

A Russian Sortie.

Gen. Stoessel, commanding at Port Arthur, and of whom much is expected, reports that he made a sortie in which he drove back the attacking force with a loss to them of over 1,000 killed and wounded, while his own losses were from 100 to 110 killed and wounded. He does not explain what were the purposes of the sortie, but it is well provisioned and dispatched says that it was for the purpose of bringing a railroad train through the Japanese lines, which was successfully done. This raises another question: If Port Arthur is so well provisioned and ammunition as the Russians have asserted, why this urgency in getting a train through?

There is a disproportion in the losses which arouses suspicion. The sortie must have been in the nature of an attack upon fortified lines. How did the Russians manage to break through these and inflict a loss of 1,000 on the Japanese, who are suffering only one-tenth that themselves?

Any way, Gen. Stoessel is entitled to the credit of having done the first soldierly thing on the Russian side, and if his sortie and no other object than to raise the fighting spirit of his men he accomplished much.

Loss of a Japanese Vessel.

On May 16, while the Japanese cruiser *Miyako* was assisting in clearing out the Russian mines near Port Arthur, she exploded a mine and was destroyed, with a loss of six killed.

The *Miyako* was a steel cruiser of 1,000 tons displacement and 6,130 indicated horsepower, completed in 1901, and having an estimated speed of 20 knots. She was 214-3-4 feet long, had 36 feet beam, and drew 13-1-4 feet of water. Her armament consisted of two 4.7-inch quick-firing guns and 10 1.8-inch guns and four torpedo tubes.

The Railroad Cut.

May 16 a force of Japanese advanced from Kin-chou Bay, where they had established a base, and which is said to be the best landing place on the west side of the peninsula between Port Arthur and Newchwang, and attacked the Russians in position guarding the railroad near Pulan. After a sharp resistance, in which the Japanese casualties were 146, they succeeded in driving the Russians away and forcing themselves across the railroad, which with the telegraph lines they destroyed. The fighting and the loss seem trifling compared with the importance of the movement.

A SISTER OF MERCY.

A Grateful Soldier Erects a Tombstone to Her Years After Her Death.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I first enlisted, without my parents' consent, October, 1861, at Bay City, Mich., in what was called the 1st Mich. Lancers. About 500 of us were mustered into the U. S. service at Detroit, and for a time were quartered on a boat; later at the fair grounds. We received our rifles and our clothing, and in March, 1862, by an order from the War Department, we were mustered out, as the Government did not require men for that sort of service.

I returned to my home in Northfield, a farm six miles north of Ann Arbor, Mich., and remained there until September, when I made up my mind to enlist, and to enter a regiment already at the front. I feared that I might prolong the war would be over, and I wished to be there to help end it. I often wished afterwards that it had ended before I got there. However, the opportunity came, as one day I went to Ann Arbor and saw a tent in the Court House yard square, and was informed there was an officer recruiting for the 10th Mich. It was the Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment, Norvel E. Welch, who was in command. He was a tall, thin man, with a long, straight nose, and a kind, pleasant face. He was dressed in a blue uniform, with a sword at his side. He was sitting on a bench, and I went up to him and asked him to enlist me. He looked at me for a moment, and then he said: "You are a good-looking fellow, and I like you. But I want to know something about you. What is your name?"

"My name is Norvel E. Welch," I said. "I am a farmer, and I have a good farm. I have a family of five children. I am a good man, and I am a good soldier. I want to enlist in your regiment." He looked at me for a moment, and then he said: "You are a good-looking fellow, and I like you. But I want to know something about you. What is your name?"

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WEBSTER.

It Was True 12 Years Ago

And it is True Now

Read What a Michigan Man Says to Prove It

HERRMANSVILLE, MICH.—I had been pronounced incurable of Bright's Disease by three eminent physicians, who recommended using Vite-Ore. I weighed about 160 pounds, but in three months I weighed 145 pounds and was well and hearty. Have not suffered with my kidneys since, and it has been twelve years since I first used the Vite-Ore. I am now 48 years old and believe I am good for thirty years yet if I can have Vite-Ore.

W. H. NOLAN.

WHAT IRON DOES:

"ONCE the properties which go to make mineral springs famous for their medicinal qualities are known, it is not difficult to see why they are so valuable. Iron is one of the most important of these properties. It is the basis of the blood, and it is the basis of the nervous system. It is the basis of the muscles, and it is the basis of the bones. It is the basis of the life, and it is the basis of the death. It is the basis of the health, and it is the basis of the disease. It is the basis of the strength, and it is the basis of the weakness. It is the basis of the power, and it is the basis of the impotence. It is the basis of the wisdom, and it is the basis of the folly. It is the basis of the glory, and it is the basis of the shame. It is the basis of the honor, and it is the basis of the dishonor. It is the basis of the life, and it is the basis of the death. It is the basis of the health, and it is the basis of the disease. 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